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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 30, 1987 -- The number of trailers and/or containers carried in piggyback service on major U.S. railroads through the first 51 weeks of this year has topped the record set a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Through 51 weeks of 1987, a total of 5,071,191 trailers and/or containers were hauled, topping the 1986 total of 5,005,968 and making it the sixth straight record year. With one week left in the year, the cumulative total was 2.7 percent ahead of the 51-week total for 1986.

Piggyback freight traffic during the week ended December 19 totaled 105,049 trailers and/or containers, down 1.5 percent from last year.

Meanwhile, overall freight traffic carried during the week ended December 26 totaled 13.3 billion ton-miles, up 18.8 percent from the 11.2 billion carried in the comparable week of 1986.

That brought the total for the year to an estimated 941.3 billion ton-miles, topping last year's figure of 874.6 billion by 7.6 percent and surpassing the previous record of 921 billion ton-miles set in 1984 by 2.1 percent. The 1984 record was passed last week.

Carloadings originated in the week ended December 26 totaled 292,956, up 18.3 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 30.1 percent below the preceding non-holiday week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 22.2 percent in the East and 14.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 17 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Metallic ores increased by 4,778 cars (53.1 percent), grain showed a gain of 8,164 cars (49.7 percent), metals and products increased by 1,896 cars (35.2 percent), and coal loadings were up 15,977 cars (23.9 percent). All 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/26/87:

	Loadings in Week ended December 26, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,580	I	8,164	49.7	D	6,933	22.0
Other farm products	3,997	I	868	27.7	D	1,306	24.6
Metallic ores	13,768	I	4,778	53.1	D	2,046	12.9
Coal	82,693	I	15,977	23.9	D	40,057	32.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	6,525	I	1,745	36.5	D	5,921	47.6
Nonmetallic minerals	6,095	D	2,228	26.8	D	3,209	34.5
Grain mill products	8,772	I	537	6.5	D	2,190	20.0
Food and kindred products	7,753	I	610	8.5	D	3,194	29.2
Primary forest products	6,546	I	702	12.0	D	4,595	41.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,467	I	520	10.5	D	2,257	29.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,055	D	492	4.3	D	716	6.1
Chemicals and allied products	21,391	I	2,859	15.4	D	5,545	20.6
Petroleum products	3,657	I	441	13.7	D	919	20.1
Stone, clay and glass products	6,408	I	905	16.4	D	2,551	28.5
Coke	4,938	I	1,163	30.8	D	777	13.6
Metals and products	7,279	I	1,896	35.2	D	2,558	26.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	10,812	I	210	2.0	D	8,986	4.5
Waste and scrap materials	6,032	I	1,365	29.2	D	3,218	34.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	1,802	D	158	8.1	D	670	27.1
All other carloads	53,386	I	5,510	11.5	D	24,417	31.4
Total Cars Loaded	292,956	I	45,372	18.3	D	126,092	30.1
Corresponding week of 1986	247,584						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (52 weeks)	20,811,558	19,783,912	I 5.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
51 Weeks ended December 19	928.0	863.4	I 7.5
Week ended December 26	13.3	11.2	I 18.8
52 Weeks cumulative	941.3	874.6	I 7.6

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